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REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended, Claims 6-17 are cancelled, and Claims 18-25 are added. Claims 1-5 and 18-25, as amended, remain in the application. No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims.

In the Office Action dated March 12, 2004, the Examiner provisionally rejected Claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 1-17 of co-pending Application Serial No. 10/373,338, filed February 24, 2003. The Examiner stated that this is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Following these remarks is copy of the allowed Claims 1-8, 10-15 and 17 from the co-pending Application Serial No. 10/373,338.

Applicants amended Claim 1 to add the subject matter of cancelled Claim 9. Since Claim 9 was cancelled from the co-pending application and Claim 1 was allowed in the co-pending application, Applicants believe that amended Claim 1, dependent Claims 2-5 and new dependent Claim 18 are allowable.

Applicants added new Claims 19-25 directed to the features of the invention shown in Figs. 5-7. Since these features are not included in the allowed claims of the co-pending application, Applicants request that the provisional rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 be withdrawn.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above arguments, Applicants believe that the claims of record now define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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ALLOWED CLAIMS IN SERIAL NO. 10/373,338

1. (Original) An air hose reel for storing an air hose and connecting the air hose with a pressurized air supply, comprising:

a hollow reel housing having an aperture formed therein;

a flange mounted on an exterior of said reel housing, said flange including a first tubular portion extending outwardly from said reel housing and adapted to be connected to a source of pressured air, and a second tubular portion extending inside said reel housing and in fluid communication with said first tubular portion, said second tubular portion having an annular groove formed in an exterior surface and an O-ring retained in said groove;

a pulley rotatably mounted inside said reel housing on an axis of rotation;

a nozzle mounted on said pulley, said nozzle having a tubular nozzle inlet receiving said second tubular portion, said O-ring sealing between said exterior surface of said second tubular portion and an interior surface of said nozzle inlet, said nozzle having a nozzle outlet in fluid communication with said nozzle inlet, said nozzle outlet extending transverse to said axis of rotation; and

a reel hose being wound on said pulley, said reel hose having one end attached to said nozzle outlet and an opposite end extending through said housing aperture.

2. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 1 including an air supply hose attached to said first tubular portion of said flange.

3. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 1 including a return spring attached to said pulley for automatically rewinding said reel hose.

4. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 1 including a handle extending from said reel housing for hand carrying the air hose reel.

5. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 1 including a mounting bracket releasably attached to said reel housing for attaching the air hose reel to a mounting surface.

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6. (Original) An air hose reel for storing an air hose and connecting the air hose with a pressurized air supply, comprising:

- a hollow reel housing having first and second cup-shaped housing halves, each of said housing halves having a generally inverted U-shaped handle portion extending outwardly therefrom, said handle portions cooperating to form a handle for hand carrying the air hose reel;

- a generally U-shaped mounting bracket for attaching the air hose reel to a mounting surface;

- a rod extending through apertures formed in said mounting bracket and apertures formed in at least one of said handle portions, said rod detachably attaching said housing to said mounting bracket;

- a flange mounted on an exterior of said second half of said housing, said flange including a first tubular portion extending outwardly from said reel housing and adapted to be connected to a source of pressured air, and a second tubular portion extending inside said reel housing and in fluid communication with said first tubular portion, said second tubular portion having an annular groove formed in an exterior surface and an O-ring retained in said groove;

- a pulley rotatably mounted inside said reel housing on an axis of rotation;

- a nozzle mounted on said pulley, said nozzle having a tubular nozzle inlet receiving said second tubular portion, said O-ring sealing between said exterior surface of said second tubular portion and an interior surface of said nozzle inlet, said nozzle having a nozzle outlet in fluid communication with said nozzle inlet, said nozzle outlet extending transverse to said axis of rotation;

- a reel hose being wound on said pulley, said reel hose having one end attached to said nozzle outlet and an opposite end extending through said housing aperture; and

- a return spring mounted in said pulley for automatically winding up said reel hose, said return spring having one end attached to said pulley and an opposite end fixed relative to said housing.

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7. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 6 including a nut releasably attached to said rod and preventing removal of said rod from said mounting bracket apertures and said at least one handle portion apertures.

8. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 6 wherein said pulley includes a pair of pulley halves each having a plurality of radially extending flanges at an outer edge thereof, said flanges defining a space for retaining said reel hose.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 6 including a shaft mounted in said first half of said reel housing, said shaft rotatably supporting said pulley.

11. (Currently amended) The air hose reel according to claim 9 10 wherein said opposite end of said return spring is attached to said shaft.

12. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 6 including a hose clamp attaching said one end of said reel hose to said nozzle outlet.

13. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 6 including a ball stop attached to said reel hose adjacent said opposite end.

14. (Original) An air hose reel for storing an air hose and connecting the air hose with a pressurized air supply, comprising:

- a hollow reel housing having first and second cup-shaped housing halves, each of said housing halves having a generally inverted U-shaped handle portion extending outwardly therefrom, said handle portions cooperating to form a handle for hand carrying the air hose reel;
- a generally U-shaped mounting bracket for attaching the air hose reel to a mounting surface;

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a rod extending through apertures formed in said mounting bracket and apertures formed in at least one of said handle portions, said rod detachably attaching said housing to said mounting bracket;

a nut releasably attached to said rod and preventing removal of said rod from said mounting bracket apertures and said at least one handle portion apertures;

a flange mounted on an exterior of said second half of said housing, said flange including a first tubular portion extending outwardly from said reel housing and adapted to be connected to a source of pressured air, and a second tubular portion extending inside said reel housing and in fluid communication with said first tubular portion, said second tubular portion having an annular groove formed in an exterior surface and an O-ring retained in said groove;

a pulley rotatably mounted inside said reel housing on an axis of rotation;

a nozzle mounted on said pulley, said nozzle having a tubular nozzle inlet receiving said second tubular portion, said O-ring sealing between said exterior surface of said second tubular portion and an interior surface of said nozzle inlet, said nozzle having a nozzle outlet in fluid communication with said nozzle inlet, said nozzle outlet extending transverse to said axis of rotation;

a reel hose being wound on said pulley, said reel hose having one end attached to said nozzle outlet by a hose clamp and an opposite end extending through said housing aperture;

a shaft mounted in said first half of said reel housing, said shaft rotatably supporting said pulley; and

a return spring mounted in said pulley for automatically winding up said reel hose, said return spring having one end attached to said pulley and an opposite end attached to said shaft.

15. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 14 wherein said pulley includes a pair of pulley halves each having a plurality of radially extending flanges at an outer edge thereof, said flanges defining a space for retaining said reel hose.

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16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The air hose reel according to claim 14 including a ball stop attached to said reel hose adjacent said opposite end.